

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 130508

62

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /074 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:HKWALKER/MPH

APPROVED BY AF/W:JKBISHOP

AF-MR. BLAKE (DRAFT)

EA/K-EKELLY

IO/UNP-CSCHALLER (SUBSTANCE)

----- 052404

R 042146Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, KS

SUBJECT: NIGERIA-KOREA RELATIONS

1. KOREAN EMBASSY MINISTER KU CALLED ON AF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE JUNE 3 TO REQUEST U.S. ASSISTANCE IN PRESENTING ROK CASE TO NIGERIA RE NORTH KOREAN ISSUES AT UN AND FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN PERU. KU EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT PARK APPOINTED KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA AS PERSONAL EMISSARY TO VISIT LAGOS, BUT NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN OTTAWA HAD TO RENEGE ON VISA ALREADY ISSUED BECAUSE OF INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED TEN DAYS LATER FROM LAGOS THAT FMG QUOTE COULD NOT RECEIVE KOREAN AMBASSADOR UNQUOTE. KU SAID DELEGATION UNABLE VISIT LAGOS LAST YEAR FOR SIMILAR REASON. KU ASKED BLAKE FOR ADVICE ON HOW KOREA SHOULD APPROACH NIGERIANS AND IF U.S. COULD HELP IN LAGOS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 130508

2. BLAKE REPLIED U.S. DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH BROAD KOREAN PROBLEM THAT ROK ATTEMPTING TO DISCUSS WITH LDC'S SUCH AS NIGERIA, AND THERE HAD BEEN INSTANCES IN WHICH U.S. WAS ABLE TO HELP WITH CERTAIN LDC'S. NIGERIA, HOWEVER, IS A SPECIAL CASE WHERE OUR INFLUENCE ON MATTERS LIKE THIS WOULD BE MODEST FOR RECENT HISTORICAL REASONS AND BECAUSE NIGERIA HAS FIRM FOREIGN POLICY AGAINST

INVOLVEMENT IN MATTERS DISTANT FROM IT SUCH AS KOREAN ISSUE. BLAKE PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO ASK OUR EMBASSY IN LAGOS FOR ITS VIEWS ON EFFICACY OF U.S. APPROACH THERE. MEANWHILE, HE SUGGESTED THAT ROK MAY WISH CONSIDER HAVING KOREAN AMBASSADOR WHO IS ASSIGNED TO A WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY PERFORM ROLE INTENDED FOR KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA. PERHAPS AFRICAN HOST GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF KOREAN AMBASSADOR IF LATTER, LIKE COUNTERPART IN CANADA, HAD DIFFICULTY IN VISITING LAGOS. BLAKE ALSO REMARKED THAT FRIENDLY ASIAN GOVERNMENTS WITH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN COUNTRIES LIKE NIGERIA HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN MORE USEFUL INTERMEDIARY THAN U.S. EMBASSY ON SIMILAR OCCASIONS. KU WELCOMED SUGGESTIONS PENDING RECEIPT OF ADVICE FROM AMEMBASSY LAGOS.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE OF POSSIBLE UTILITY OF U.S. DEMARCHE IN LAGOS ON BEHALF KOREANS AND ON FMG RECEPTIVENESS TO VISIT LAGOS BY KOREAN AMBASSADOR ASSIGNED TO AFRICAN COUNTRY FOR PURPOSES INDICATED. SUBJECT THIS CABLE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE RAISED WITH FMG AT THIS TIME.

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